

FROM PATTERSON'S COLUMN.

The Crossing of the Potomac.

AN IMPRESSIVE SPECTACLE.

VIRGINIA REFUGEES IN MARYLAND.

THEIR SUFFERINGS AND THEIR INDIGNATION

EVACUATION OF HARPER'S FERRY

Its Causes and Incidents.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WILLIAMSPORT, Md., Sunday Morning, June 16. Forward, March! is the order to-day. While I write, in the early hours of this still and lovely Summer Sabbath Day, the camp of the brigade which arrived here yesterday from Greenleaf is all in commotion, striking tents and packing wagons, preparatory to the "invasion" of "the sacred soil" of Virginia.

The cavalry having fled in such haste from their impregnable stronghold, Harper's Ferry, the only chance of charging on them is to push on precipitately, and hence the sudden order to cross the Potomac. It may be a necessary move of strategy in the altered condition of affairs, but from all accounts the timorous Rebels are too far ahead to be overtaken, and they are not likely to make a stand anywhere here this side of Manassas Junction. We hear they are at Winchester, but all reports are indefinite and uncertain, for communication has been almost entirely cut off for some days past with Virginia. Last night I saw an old gentleman (the young and able-bodied men have all fled, or have been imprisoned or pressed into the Rebel service), just from Martinsburg, twelve miles south of this place, and his information is the latest received. He says no Rebel troops are in Berkeley County, except one company just mustered at Martinsburg, and that, he thinks, left before night, as they had pressed two wagons into their service for carrying baggage. He saw no soldiers on his way here.

I think there can be no doubt that the sudden evacuation of Harper's Ferry was the result of alarm and not through strategem or design, to make a combined movement against Washington, as some persons imagine. They certainly had a report at Harper's Ferry, last Thursday, that Gen. Patterson's column had reached this point, and were crossing the river, and also that Gen. McClellan's column was advancing on to Winchester from Romney. These facts I learn from a reliable source, and they are not yet generally known. The fear of being hemmed in overcame the indomitable valor of which they have boasted so loudly, and as rumor and fear magnified our forces, they wisely retreated. This appears to me to be the explanation of their precipitate retreat. There is a possibility of their making head against Gen. McClellan's column, on the mountains, if he is now moving on from Cumberland or Romney; and if his advance force is small, they may endeavor to force a passage through the West, or from Gen. Patterson's column. I shall not be surprised to hear of a collision in the mountains, though I think they are running from and not toward an enemy.

The troops had a hot march yesterday, but bore it well, though some gave out on the road and left the ranks, to follow up as they could. All reached camp before night.

Yesterday a small lot of muskets and a howitzer were seized at Funkstown, and a small set of Secessionists, three miles below Hagerstown. They have had arms, while the Union men here had none.

There are probably one hundred Virginia refugees and deserters from Harper's Ferry at this place. I have conversed with a number of them, and learned many interesting particulars of their personal experiences of violence and persecution from the Rebel troops and Secessionists of their own neighborhood. These will form a chapter for future historians and chroniclers of the incidents of the war, as stirring in interest, if not so bloody, as those of olden time in the civil wars of England and the border state of Scotland. Union men were subjected to gross abuse; they were disarmed and robbed of every weapon of whatever kind they possessed, rifles, pistols, and shotguns. They were pressed into the service of the Rebels, imprisoned, driven from their homes, and some are reported to have been hung. They were robbed of provisions, and their property taken and used without permission or compensation. Their houses were searched and ransacked, and many fled for their lives in the dead of night, escaping narrowly only by hiding in wheat fields and thickets till they reached the Potomac, which, being at a high stage of water some days ago, they had to swim or get over on logs, the boats on the Virginia side having been seized by the Secessionists. Some left their families and large property unprotected, while others left their families not only unprotected, but without any means of support. Many who were pressed into the service of the Rebels were poor men whose families were in a destitute condition, and much suffering has ensued.

The men I have seen who have escaped are bitter in their feelings toward their persecutors, and avow vengeance against them. They are especially excited against the Secessionists of their own county, for insulting and betraying them to the rebel soldiers. They have lists of these traitors whom they have marked for punishment. Each of the refugees has his own particular grievance to redress, and all have their special objects of revenge "spotted." I have never seen so determined an expression of a revengeful spirit, under a sense of being the victims of outrageous wrong, among any set of men, and if they are not restrained by the strong arm of military authority there will be some bloody work in Virginia. "Coercion" has no meaning now for these exasperated men; they go for extermination of the race of traitors. Serious, sensible, and respectable men say, emphatically, that their violent and treacherous neighbors can no longer live in the same community with them—they must die or fly. The malignant spirit and tyrannical principles of Secessionism have been brought out with such unblinking and cruel ferocity that they forewear all fellowship with them as friends—families and old neighbors will be forever separated. One gentleman of high standing from Virginia referred to this result among his own neighbors and relatives with deep emotions of sorrow. He considered retribution certain. He thought many would move off South with their families and negroes, immediately, and there were numbers among them of his old friends and kindred he never expected to see again.

The destruction of the railroad bridges, dams, locks, and canal boats, which millions of dollars will not replace, they regard as so wanton and atrocious that there is but one voice upon the subject of the policy of confiscation of the property of the Secessionist traitors, which is demanded as a just retribution, which shall make the losses of loyal private citizens good, and to pay the expenses of the war.

At the same time that the bridges at Harper's Ferry and Shepherdstown were destroyed, two more bridges were burned on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Capen Bridge, over Capen River, 10 miles above Hancock, and the Pillar Bridge, crossing a wide ravine at Martinsburg, which cost \$30,000.

Many of the refugees left home so suddenly that they came without money or a change of clothes. At this moment, there are a number here who are in a state of great distress about their families, from whom they have not heard since they fled. One man, who was a remarkably sober and inoffensive citizen, has been so deeply affected by fear of injury to his family, and loss of goods in his store, all left to the mercy of the rebel

troops, that he is quite inconsolable and drowns his sorrow in the bowl.

Great fears have been entertained for the safety of some noted Union men, and particularly Mr. Edmund Pennington, who was a member of the National Convention. News has just reached here, however, that he is safe at Bath with his family, all of whom fled to the mountains together. Major Philip Pennington, the brother of Edmund, is the gentleman who has been recruiting the Virginia regiment here for Col. Ward H. Lamon of Washington, who is a native of Berkeley County. Lieut. Smalley of the Army, specially deputed by the War Department to raise and equip the regiment is now here, and Col. Lamon is daily expected. This Virginia regiment will soon be mustered by the Berkeley and Jefferson County Union men. One of the most active agents in recruiting for it is the Rev. Charles H. Russell, a Presbyterian minister stationed here, a true-hearted son of Connecticut, who has been among the foremost in defending Williamsport against the rebel troops which threatened its safety and kept the town in a constant state of fear and alarm for weeks. Some poor nervous women here have not had a sound sleep for a week before the troops arrived; they are now jubilant.

Among the principal refugees I may mention J. W. Dailley, A. R. McQuilkin, and S. T. Bowers, who were Union delegates of Berkeley County at the Wheeling Convention in May, all of whom fled for their lives. John W. Hooper, of Martinsburg, had a narrow chance in getting away; and also, J. M. Howarth, ticket-agent of the B. and O. R.R., of the same place. Mr. Joseph Karnes was a member of Capt. Nudenhush's Company of the Berkeley Border Guards, and deserted from Harper's Ferry. He is now a recruiting captain for Col. Lamon's Virginia Regiment. The Berkeley Border Guards were an old volunteer company, which was pressed into the service of the rebels against the will of a majority of the members, who swore they would never fight against the Stars and Stripes. Many returned to their homes and were forced back to camp, and a few deserters among them are said to have been killed. The names of those so reported are Theodore Bozer, John Smith, and Alfred Beall. Some have been under guard in the Jail at Martinsburg, with a number of other Union recruits.

The famous ferry-boat at this place, which was sent by the Rebels three miles below, was raised yesterday by a large squad of the Home Guard, and hauled up here. It was a "flying" ferry-boat, so called, being propelled by the force of the current, while it is held by a wire strung across the river. The wire was cut on the Virginia side, but has been saved.

Yesterday, after the arrival of the troops, a few Secessionists of this place had the pleasure of being put through the oath of allegiance.

I lay down my pen to go and see the troops cross the Potomac.

Sunday Evening.—At 10 o'clock this morning, the division of the army under command of Gen. Cadwalader moved forward into Virginia. The troops crossed by fording at an excellent ford just opposite the town. The water being at a moderate stage, was in no part over waist deep, and between four and five hundred yards across. The captains led their companies, and the men took the water like spaniels—they dashed in the ranks, and as the head of each regiment struck the bank on "Old Virginia's shore," they raised a rousing cheer, which made the welkin ring. The bugles and the fife played and the men sang "Dixie" as they passed. The body of troops which have gone over to-day passed in the following order:

1. Battalion of United States Infantry.
2. Ninth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.
3. Tenth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.
4. Eleventh Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.
5. Brigade of Cavalry.
6. Second of Regulars, Infantry.
7. Twenty-third Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.
8. Twenty-fourth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.
9. Twenty-fifth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.
10. Rhode Island Battery in four guns.
11. Sixth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.

The head of the column crossed a little after 3 o'clock. Early in the morning the Williamsburg Home Guard planted their flag on the spot where the rebel flag had flamed so long in their eyes.

Gen. Cadwalader and staff accompanied them. Gov. Sprague and Col. Burnsides crossed with their battery, but returned to the regiment, which remains here with two battery guns, and will probably move to-morrow with the 3d Brigade, Gen. Williams commanding, now encamped near here.

Capt. Doubleday's Command and McMillan's Rangers have gone from here to-day to the encampment at Hagerstown. The siege guns have not arrived, which I suppose deranges plans.

The sight of the army crossing the Potomac was very grand and impressive, as well for the scene itself—in the midst of the most lovely landscape, glowing with richest verdure, under a clear sky and bright, Summer sun—as for the great occasion so remarkable and memorable in its character. Was it not the Army of Freedom entering into the land of bondage, to proclaim Liberty for all men? True; so far, if not, it was only an idle and a worthless pageant, and will be a burning shame on the free men of the Free North. Yes, freedom for the divine Humanity! In this War were for anything short of realizing a perfect equality of rights for every human being, it would be the most foolish crusade, or the direct butchery, that this earth was ever stained withal. On the triumph of Freedom over Slavery rests the honor and the fate of this nation. We achieved national liberty through the Revolution; we must now achieve individual liberty for all men in the nation, to make us as a people the worthy standard-bearer of that holy cause which we claim to have espoused for all the world!

HAGERSTOWN, Md.,

Monday Evening, June 17, 1861.

There is "something out!" A retrograde movement is evident among the troops. The regulars and one regiment of infantry are now on their return from Williamsport, who, I understand, with the regular cavalry, and the detachment of four guns of the Rhode Island battery—all of which crossed over into Virginia yesterday—have been countermanded, and are to go to Washington by rail via Chambersburg and Baltimore. This morning the Rhode Island regiment, with two of its battery guns, came up from the camp at Williamsport, and passed through this place down the road to Frederick, reaching Boonsboro' probably to-night. Outsiders have no information of the immediate cause of these movements; but we can guess.

The Franklin Railroad having been taken possession of by Gen. Patterson, several regiments remaining at Chambersburg have been hurried forward here by rail, and all that were encamped there have arrived. The last was the Connecticut 1st, which came in to-day, and passed through the main street of the town in "double quick" to the great admiration of all beholders.

That part of Gen. Cadwalader's Division which crossed the Potomac yesterday, have not gone beyond Falling Waters, a point on the Potomac, six miles beyond Williamsport, on the road to Martinsburg. Gen. Williams' Brigade, encamped yesterday at Williamsport, have not stirred, and I have heard of no other movements to-day than those mentioned above.

It is reported that yesterday a squad of cavalry were scouring the country just above Harper's Ferry, pressing the Virginians to go on with the Rebels Southward, and forcing many to swim the river to this side in order to escape. It is said that fifty or more refugees got over yesterday, and mostly slept out last night.

I heard yesterday, from a deserter from Harper's Ferry, that the evacuation of that place was delayed some time by the refusal of the Kentucky Battalion, which held the Maryland Heights, to move off with the Rebel troops. They were a good deal disaffected by the condition of things being so different from the representations which induced them to leave home, and the equivocal position of their State, of which I suppose they could learn very little. They had resolved to stay where they were, saying they had taken "a lease of that ground," but, at the last moment, they abandoned it, and went off with the rest.

Several arrests were made last night and this morning of indiscreet Secessionists, who were particularly

obnoxious, but after a lodging in the guard-house, they were let off with a caution. I learn, however, that sixty prominent Secessionists here have been notified by the military authorities that they must show their colors within a limited time, by raising the Stars and Stripes on their houses, or be subjected to arrest, and made to take the oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States. They have to make their return to this call to-morrow. It would be well if a little of this medicine were prescribed for the Secessionist members of the Legislature now in extraordinary session at Frederick City.

Gov. Hicks and suite arrived yesterday to visit Gen. Patterson, and departed this morning for Baltimore. He was treated with marked distinction by the military and the loyal citizens. He is considered by his friends here to be a staunch Union man, and they declare that his equivocal conduct on the passage of the Northern troops through Baltimore, was forced upon him in the absence of firm advisers and supporters by direct threats upon his life.

I do not observe that the presence of the army in this part of Maryland makes any impression on the negro population, free or slave, except that the display of soldiers causes a large display of "ivory." But these upper counties of the State form so purely an agricultural and not a planting section, that there are comparatively few negroes here, and they are only a remnant of easy tames, the fractions and disinclined having started for the North or gone to the Southern plantations. Slavery is not profitable here, and remains only because it is a State institution. A gentleman I was conversing with yesterday, who has a number of slaves, said he would not value them at "a dollar a dozen" if the war went on, and he deplored the social necessity which made him a slaveholder. He saw the effect on the young men particularly, inducing idleness and habits of idleness and dissipation, and also the incursion of the institution upon general property and improvement.

The regular cavalry, five companies, have just passed through the town. The Philadelphia City troop remains in Virginia. The infantry regiment of regulars have also come, but the order to march was countermanded after taking the cars.

THE GERMAN VOLUNTEERS.

PRESENTATION TO THE DE KALB REGIMENT. Americans observe with pleasure and pride the loyalty of their adopted fellow-citizens. It was scarcely in accordance with the anticipations of the leaders of Rebellion that the first blow at the integrity of the United States should be accepted as an indignity by the foreign population of the Free States in mass, but their firm stand is the best guarantee to the nation that they represent the value of those laws and institutions which a faction would violate and destroy. The presentation of a set of flags and a sword to the De Kalb Regiment, and their commanding officer, Col. Leopold von Gilsa, by the family of R. A. Withams, at their residence, No. 21 West Thirty-fourth street, yesterday afternoon, was another pleasant evidence of this generous sympathy.

At 4 o'clock, the Regiment marched without arms into the wide street. Crowds were collected in front of the fine house of Mr. Withams, and the windows of all the adjacent dwellings were rife with the forms of the fair. The regiment numbered about 880 men, the greater part Germans, and all showing that compact and muscular form which has been noticed in all the ranks of their countrymen. They were drawn up by companies, with entire precision, before the house, policemen being thrown out on each wing of the body, and made a very solid appearance. They looked business. The exposure and discipline of the colonel, in the deep brown of the skin of the Zouaves, whose captain is a remarkable specimen of able-bodied man.

It is not too high praise to say that the De Kalb Regiment in its well drilled as any body of soldiers now in service or preparing for the field. Their evolutions, indeed, were executed with as perfect unanimity and confidence as would seem attainable by the severest drill. The mass moved a unit, and provoked hearty cheers by each movement.

The staff was assembled on the sidewalk, the Colonel and his aids having dismounted. Upon the steps, in the hall, and on the balconies stood a number of invited guests, including ladies of fashion and gentlemen of distinction.

We observed among the latter the Hon. George Bancroft, John Jacob Astor, esq., and Col. Franklin of the United States army, with several prominent members of the Union Defense Committee. A fine band, accompanying the Regiment, performed an air-patriotic course—and Mrs. Withams, with her lovely family, appeared before the troops. Mrs. Withams extended a brilliant silk banner. The Stars and Stripes were welcomed with a loud shout. The lady then addressed the Regiment in a very sweet but not generally audible voice, as follows:

Officers and soldiers of the De Kalb Regiment—It affords me much satisfaction to meet you here upon this occasion, to offer you my thanks for your noble and brave service to our country's cause, which rebellion and lawless violence have at last compelled us sorrowfully to lay aside the olive-branch, and draw the sword in self-defense—when treason has raised its fratricidal arm to strike a death-blow to that Union which our fathers made for us—therefore, I repeat, it is with satisfaction and heartfelt gratitude that I welcome each man of you to stand forth in its defense.

And I desire to present to you our country's flag, emblem of that Union as our fathers gave it into our hands, and as our fathers have been added to its azure field, the world's history has recorded the manner in which we have kept the Union, and released them from the reign of terror under which they are now bowed down; and for their sake I implore you, in the hour of victory, forget not mercy. But while as instruments in the hands of an avenging God, you go forth to punish and subdue those who, for their own selfish ends, would sacrifice our country, forget not that the same God is also the God of mercy, and that you are his soldiers in battle, so are you also his instruments in the protection of innocence and helplessness, and your efforts may preserve unto us many who, when these dark troubles shall have passed away, will gladly return, like the prodigal of old, to the protection of that time-honored flag under whose folds we have become a people.

Take then this flag which I intrust to your hands with unbounded confidence, and feeling certain as I do that it can only return with you from victory, I shall await with anxious heart that happy day. Hoping to meet you again, most if not all of you, in our country's name for the law which you show for it in this hour of our rescue, when, alas, some of its own misguided members seek to destroy it, becoming, as you will then have done, doubly its sons; some by adoption, and noble sons, as were our forefathers, who perished their lives, as you are now about to do, in its defense. May God watch over you and crown your efforts with success, so that future generations may honor your names even as we do theirs, and may our flag again wave in triumph and peace over every portion of our beloved country.

The enthusiasm created in the ranks by so much love and eloquence was immense. The rounds of cheers should have been heard by Brigadier-General Beauregard. This presentation was followed by the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by members of the Liederkreis. The whole street took up the burden of the song with earnestness.

Frederick Kapp, esq., then bestowed upon Col. von Gilsa, in the name of Mr. Withams, a handsome and trusty sword. His remarks were made in German, and containing allusions to the beloved Fatherland, and exhortations to fidelity to the Stars and Stripes, were frequently interrupted by rousing cheers. Col. von Gilsa acknowledged the gift in modest terms.

It would have been unreasonable and contrary to the nature of men less gallant than German soldiers not to be stirred to the depths by the advance forward of the charming young people of Mr. Withams's house. The

ranks broke into a confusion of cheers as Miss Withams stood forth under a very beautiful regimental banner, her own gift. The workmanship of this standard in satin and brilliantly colored threads, is delicate and effective. An embroidered picture of De Kalb stands on one side, and a floral coat of arms the other, patriotic mottoes, in German and English, going with both.

A stand of guide colors, of bright pattern, accompanied this flag. Mr. Withams resigned the colors to the regiment, on behalf of his daughter. His speech, which was distinctly audible throughout the ranks, was as patriotic as that of his accomplished lady. He charged the regiment to attack the foe manfully. He said:

I am requested to present to you on the part of my children—American by their mother, German by their father—this regimental flag and guide colors, bearing the portrait of Baron von Kall, of whom the father of this country, the illustrious George Washington, so truly said, "The generous stranger who came from a distant land to fight our battles, and to water with his blood the tree of our liberty, would he had lived to enjoy its fruit." Among all the heroes of the Revolution, we may well challenge comparison for him.

Side by side with the heaven-inspired patriots and warriors, he has the honor and glory of the battle; his acts gave you the title-deed to your share of American adopted citizens; and how well that right is treasured and most jealously guarded by you is best proven by the many regiments of patriotic Germans who, since the first fire on the Stars and Stripes at Fort Sumter, have rallied to the aid of the maintenance of our laws and our adopted country.

And, addressing the Colonel, Col. Leopold von Gilsa—I now close in presenting, in the name of my children, this standard and guide to the De Kalb Regiment. May they prove to each patriotic heart a beacon in the battle-field; may your regiment honor them, guard them, and protect them, and when you are reminded of mercy and humanity, and when the curtain of mercy is drawn, may the moral clouds have disappeared, may the banner of De Kalb fraternize with the glorious flag of the Stars and Stripes in its full and undiminished constellation, and may the names of De Kalb and Von Gilsa be proud of each other's company.

All these ceremonies were attended with the enthusiastic plaudits of the crowd, military and civil. At their termination good feelings were exchanged between the officers of the Regiment and the family of Mr. Withams, when the soldiers again formed in marching order, and after a salute to their generous patrons, proceeded down the Fifth avenue to Twenty-third street, through Twenty-third street to the Third avenue, and thence to their present headquarters at Conrad's Park.

THE LATE MAJOR WINTHROP—ARRIVAL OF HIS REMAINS IN THIS CITY.

The remains of Major Winthrop arrived here yesterday in charge of his brother, Mr. Wm. Winthrop, accompanied by a friend of the family, Mr. Weston. These gentlemen went to Fortress Monroe last week for the purpose of bringing away the body of the Major. On Monday morning, accompanied by Lieut. Butler, Gen. Butler's Aid, they proceeded with a flag of truce to Great Bethel. On arrival at the outer pickets with the flag, they were received by the sentinels, and conducted to a farm-house about a quarter of a mile from the scene of the action.

Word having been transmitted to the intrenchments of their errand, the body of the Major was disinterred by the direction of Col. Magruder, who presently appeared with his staff and formally received the party. The body was then escorted to the house by two companies of Southern troops, under Capt. Routh and Brown. Col. Magruder tendered the party an escort as far as our lines, but this was declined.

Lieut. Butler and Mr. Winthrop were received with the utmost courtesy by the Secessionist officers, and though not admitted within the lines, every facility was given them to fulfill their melancholy errand. The party were prepared with a metallic coffin, in which the deceased officer's remains were placed, and conveyed to Fortress Monroe, where they were received with military honors. On Tuesday the body was put on board the Baltimore boat with a military escort, and it arrived here yesterday. On Friday there will be a military funeral in this city, the 7th Regiment (National Guard), of which deceased was a member, acting as a guard of honor. The remains of the late officer will then be conveyed to New-Haven for interment in the family burial-place. Major Winthrop was shot in the right breast by a North Carolina rifleman, as he was advancing at the head of the Vermont troops under Lieut. Col. Washburn. He died instantly, without pain, and was buried where he fell, before the ramparts. Col. Magruder and his officers and men joined in high encomiums upon the courage and gallantry of the deceased officer.

The following resolutions have been adopted by the 9th Company, National Guard, to which Major Winthrop belonged:

Resolved, That the members of this Company have heard with deep regret the death of Major Theodore Winthrop, a member of this Company, which occurred on the 10th inst., while on duty as Aid to Maj. Gen. Butler, near Fortress Monroe.

Resolved, That the death of Major Winthrop, a member of this Company, is a valuable and heroic sacrifice, whose place cannot easily be filled; one who, while serving with this Company, was a true and patriotic citizen, and whose death was a loss to our country, and a disgrace to our arms.

Resolved, That the members of this Company will assemble at Headquarters on the above designated day, on Friday, 21st inst., at 3 o'clock, a.m.

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FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

RECONNOITERING EXPEDITION RETURNED.

WHERE THEY WENT AND WHAT THEY SAW.

Plans and Purposes of the Enemy.

THE BODY OF MAJOR WINTHROP.

TESTIMONY OF HIS BRAVERY

The Rebels had Ten Killed at Big Bethel.

Arrival of the Minnesota with the Pirates.

Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune.

FORTRESS MONROE, Tuesday, June 18, 1861.

The expedition yesterday to enable Capt. Smith, of the Topographical Engineers, to make a reconnaissance returned late in the evening, having traveled twenty-five miles. It went to Newmarket Bridge and to Newport News, then five miles up James River, passed over to the east branch of Back River, and returned by Newmarket Bridge.

Beside a critical survey of this district, much valuable information was obtained concerning the position, strength, and purposes of the enemy, who, in considerable force, occupy the district between Hampton and Back River, with the evident intention of drawing nearer to Old Point. They are making a survey of the routes and bridges, and it is the opinion of Capt. Smith that their plan is to throw forward bodies of men so as to occupy the district between Hampton and Yorktown.

To-day Capt. Smith is engaged in reconnoitering between Newmarket Bridge and the east branch of Back River, with reference to works to check these purposes.

Other reconnoissances will follow, and a complete survey will be obtained of what has become a district of much strategic importance, lying between Hampton and Yorktown.

Nothing is known of the reported concentration of troops above Newport News. The rumor is doubted. The steamers seen on James River are probably carrying guns to be transported to Yorktown.

Yesterday Lieut. George H. Butler with others proceeded to Big Bethel to bring away the remains of Major Winthrop. At Little Bethel a picket took their message to Col. Magruder, who sent Capt. Kilsen of Louisiana to receive them. Two hours after Col. Magruder came, and they were handsomely received. With Col. Magruder were Col. De Russy, brother of the Chief of the Engineers at Fortress Monroe, Col. Hill of North Carolina, and other late officers of the army.

None of Lieut. Butler's party were permitted to go near the batteries. The body of Major Winthrop was taken up by Col. Magruder's men, and escorted to the wagon by a force of 300, who fired a volley. Most of them had shotguns. An escort was offered to Hampton, but Lieut. Butler declined it.

Col. Magruder and others spoke in the highest terms of Major Winthrop's bravery. He was distinctly seen for some time leading a body of men to the charge, and had mounted a log, and was waving his sword, and shouting to his men to "Come on!" when a North Carolina drummer-boy borrowed a gun, leaped on the battery, and shot him deliberately in the breast. He fell nearer to the enemy's works than any other man were during the fight.

He wore the sword of Col. Wardrop of the Massachusetts Third, and it was supposed that it was Col. W. who fell. The sword has been sent to North Carolina as a trophy. It has on it the name of Col. W.

From what he saw and heard, Lieut. Butler is convinced that the Rebels had not less than ten killed and a large number wounded. Their battery was constructed and served by Major Randolph, and the battle was fought principally by North Carolina troops.

The Virginia cavalry is spoken of as fit only for scouts; two regiments that had been sent for reached Big Bethel from Yorktown just as our forces retreated, having marched fifteen miles in two hours and a half. They were completely exhausted.

The remains of Major Winthrop will leave to-night for New-York with an escort.

A second experiment with the Sawyer projectile, from the Rip Raps, was tried to-day. Ten shots were fired, eight of which fell either inside of or a short distance from the rebel battery on Sewall's Point. The firing was witnessed by Gen. Butler, Col. Dimmick, and a large party of gentlemen and ladies, and was regarded as extraordinary, especially as the battery could not be seen at the Rip Raps. The men in the rebel camp were seen from the tug to scatter in all directions.

The Minnesota, with the crew of the Privateer Savannah on board, came into the Roads this morning.

To the Associated Press.

FORTRESS MONROE, Tuesday, June 18, 1861.

During the last two nights important reconnoissances have been made from Fortress Monroe and Newport News in the direction of Great Bethel. Last night a strong detachment was at Newmarket bridge. The region about the mouth of Back River has also been examined by scouts.

Lieut. Butler and Mr. Winthrop yesterday visited Great Bethel with a flag of truce for the body of the late Major Winthrop. The mission was entirely successful. The party were kept waiting at a distance from the fortification until the body could be procured. They were most courteously treated by the Confederate officers, and Col. Magruder sent his compliments to Gen. Butler.

No information was obtained relative to the force at Great Bethel.

According to the latest accounts there were five regiments at Yorktown.

Major Winthrop's body is now being conveyed to the Baltimore boat, and will be taken to Boston.

S. G. Gillies, of Col. McCoskey's regiment, was buried to-day. He was accidentally shot while on guard, by the sentinel nearest to him.

Col. McCoskey has resigned his command on account of illness and returned to New-York.

Gen. Butler is on the Rip Raps to-day, experimenting with a rifled gun.

BALTIMORE, Wednesday, June 19, 1861.